Happy New Year!

Numismagram Newsletter #163 (I/2026)

We are now past the holiday season and, *as we turn the page on the year that was*, we are back with our first upload of new material for 2026. Among the highlights in this group of medals are three that have a connection to the passage of time and the celebration of a new year. In the case of this medal from 1700, the iconography of Noah's Ark is meant to convey a hopeful end to hardships and a yearning for better things to come…

Meanwhile, in the case of this medal from 1900, the entire upcoming century appears to be celebrated, with an imposing sphinx on the obverse and a female allegory representative of the passage of time on the reverse…

Lastly, this bronze plaque celebrates 1908, with the new year conveyed through a youthful winged Genius, and with 1907 represented by an old man departing from the stage…

Another highlight of this upload is a WWI-era Karl Goetz issue in cast iron, which pokes some fun at *then*-US president Woodrow Wilson…

Though this medal was issued over a century ago, events from this past weekend draw intriguing parallels, with Uncle Sam here rather recklessly waving around a gunboat, ammunition, and a sack of money…all in the name of neutrality.

Along those lines, since the idea of a Nobel Peace Prize is at the forefront of some of the best minds right now, we have a gilt silver medal handed out to those who serve on the nominating committees as a gift of appreciation…

Graded **PCGS SP-68**, it's near the pinnacle of what one can hope to acquire for the type, as the obverse parallels that used for the actual Nobel Prize medals for the fields of science and medicine. The Peace Prize, however, does utilize a different overall design.

Also paralleling events from this past weekend, the idea of installed, "preferred" leaders is exceptionally relevant, and with that, here is a medal from 1867 issued to commemorate former emperor of Mexico, Maximiliano…

A member of the Habsburgs and a younger brother of *then*-Austro-Hungarian emperor, Franz Joseph, Maximiliano was installed in 1864 by the emperor of the French, Napoléon III, as a way for France to exert her influence in the west and upon the borders of America. The Monroe Doctrine—*a concept that may be someone's new favorite term*—was on ice at the time due to America's involvement in the Civil War. Nevertheless, it was those in Mexico themselves who fought back against France's Austrian puppet, deposing him just three years later. Though the powerful may attempt to use their might to hand-select their preferred leader upon a foreign land, history shows that it is often only a matter of time before these plans go wildly astray.

On a lighter note, this final highlight was self-issued by an artist (*in this case, Ron Dutton*) on the occasion of his 50th birthday in 1985. A rare piece of contemporary art that was distributed to friends and family, it has a floral design upon both sides, with a dreamy greenhouse with cutouts on the obverse and a many-petalled flower on the reverse…

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art at the top of this newsletter. We will be back again on January 20th for another selection of museum-quality art, historical, and contemporary medals.

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+1 (717) 917-0047

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